

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 7 and 8 subject to being rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been amended herein to be independent form. Thus, claims 7 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For at least the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that other pending claims (i.e., independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6, and 9-10) are also in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-35 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-6, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,730,610 ("Hsia") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,108,298 ("Simmel"). Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The present invention defined in independent claim 1, and its dependent claims 2-6, and 9-10 is directed to a card connector. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to further clarify one of the aspects of the invention. Specifically, independent claim 1 now requires that "the fulcrum ... [be] disposed between the widthwise center of the card and one of the first and second ends," and that "the contact point is placed at almost the widthwise center of the card in an ejection starting stage, and is placed at the other end remote from the fulcrum in an ejection ending stage." The above-identified limitations in claim 1 are described at, for example, Figs. 1-3 and 6-8 and their corresponding description of the present specification. Thus, no new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

According to one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the journal 11 which functions as a fulcrum of the ejecting lever 10 is located between an approximate widthwise center of the card and an end of the card 1. In other words, the fulcrum 11 is offset from the widthwise center of the card toward one of the ends of the card. When the card 1 begins to be ejected, the card 1 is pushed on a point with the distance S1 (e.g., Fig. 1). When the card 1 is about to finish the ejection process, the card 1 is pushed on a point with the distance S2 (e.g., Fig. 3).

According to the Hsia device, the pivot arm 88 pivots on the fulcrum pin 90, and moves the card engagement plate 46 in the card ejecting direction to eject the card from the connector

header. On the other hand, the Simmel patent is related to a distance varying means for increasing the distance from the fulcrum 42 to the contact point 40 of the ejecting lever 28 during ejection. However, the ejecting lever 28 remains in contact with the end 52 of the connector to be ejected from the beginning to the end of ejection. Since the connector is thus ejected in contact with the ejecting lever, a force for pushing out the connector is not reliably transmitted thereto.

By contrast, according one specific embodiment of the invention, the card is ejected by being directly pushed by the ejecting lever. In other words, according to one of the embodiments of the invention, the contact point between the ejecting lever and the card is located at almost the center of the card in the ejection starting stage. It is respectfully submitted that nothing in the cited references suggests this feature of the invention as discussed below. By utilizing such a feature, according to one of the embodiments of the invention, the card is pushed out substantially parallel to the connector, and can be disengaged from the connector without being inclined.

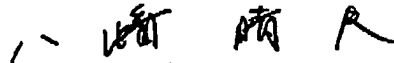
It is noted that independent claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, "the contact point is placed at almost the widthwise center of the card in an ejection starting stage, and is placed at the other end remote from the fulcrum in an ejection ending stage." None of the cited references suggests this aspect of the invention. As conceded in the Office Action, the Hsia patent fails to teach or suggest the claimed distance varying means. The Simmel patent was cited as allegedly describing the distance varying means. However, the Simmel patent does not suggest the above-identified claimed aspect.

In Fig. 6a-6f of Simmel, a card ejecting process is illustrated. At the earlier stage of the ejection, the connector housing 50 is pushed on the point C (Fig. 6b). This point C should not be considered as "almost the widthwise center of the card" as claimed because the point C is near the end of the housing 50, rather than the center thereof as claimed. Therefore, Simmel fails to teach or suggest the above-identified limitation of claim 1. Accordingly, the Simmel patent does not cure the deficiencies of the Hsia patent. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner has any continuing concerns about patentability of the claimed invention, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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